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LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to the letter dated 20 March 1991 addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, which I transmitted to you by my letter of the same date, I have the honour to inform you that the Iranian infringements, which constitute grave violations of the cease-fire and withdrawal agreements concluded under the auspices of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), began at the beginning of this month with frontier reconnaissance operations and gunfire in the direction of Iraqi territory. They then escalated into an incursion into no-man's land, the infiltration of a large number of soldiers, the construction of positions on Iraqi territory, confrontations with Iraqi army units and violations of Iraq's airspace by helicopters. The details of these violations are as follows:

1. On 6 March 1991, at 2010 hours, an Iranian force of approximately 100 men infiltrated into Iraqi territory and engaged in combat with the Iraqi units in the central sector, in the area of Zurbatiya.

2. On 6 March 1991, six Iranian Coaster vehicles transporting approximately 100 soldiers crossed the international frontier and entered the Iraqi city of Khanaqin passing through Khosro al-Mundhiriya, no-man's land and the cease-fire line, and opened fire on Iraqi units.

3. On 7 March 1991, at 1950 hours, Iranian forces fired several times across the international frontier at our units in the area of Zurbatiya (central sector).

4. On 9 March 1991, at 0540 hours, Iranian forces opened fire from two different points on our units in the area of Shaikh Sa'd.

5. On 9 March 1991, at 1600 hours, 14 Iranian soldiers were observed constructing a position in no-man's land, in the area of Zurbatiya (central sector).

6. On 12 March 1991, large groups of individuals, coming from Iranian territory via the Husseinabad pass and the area of Mundhiriya, arrived simultaneously in Iraqi territory in the central sector.

7. On 12 March 1991, at 0210 hours, a group of individuals coming from Iranian territory infiltrated our forward positions in the area of Zurbatiya and opened fire with mortars and light weapons.

8. On 12 March 1991, at 1120 hours, a group of approximately 150 individuals coming from Iranian territory entered Iraqi territory and engaged our forward units in the central sector with support from an Iranian helicopter which hovered over the Iraqi units.

9. On 12 March 1991, at 1130 hours, a group coming from Iranian territory attacked a position occupied by a section of our units in the central sector, then withdrew to Iranian territory.

10. On 12 March 1991, at 1500 hours, two sizeable groups of individuals coming from Iranian territory deployed up to the frontier, in front of the guardpost of Muhammad al-Qasim in the north and the post of Sima in the south in the area of Zurbatiya.

11. On 12 March 1991, at 1515 hours, elements came from Iranian territory and cut the road linking the Sima post with the positions of our units in the area of Zurbatiya.

12. On 13 March 1991, at 1920 hours, a group of individuals came from Iranian territory and engaged our forward units using light weapons and hand-grenades in the area of Zurbatiya.

13. On 17 March 1991, attacks were launched from Iranian territory against the central sector and the Iranian side provided the armed elements which launched these attacks with support, weapons and guidance from helicopters and observation posts.

I request you to circulate the text of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative